What is claimed is:

1. A compound represented by the structural formula

$$R^{1} \xrightarrow{D} X \xrightarrow{jg}_{Q} \xrightarrow{k}_{Q} O \xrightarrow{R^{3}} R^{4}$$

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or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, wherein:

X is independently N or C;

Z is independently NR⁸ or CR³R⁹;

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D is independently H, -OH, -alkyl or substituted -alkyl with the proviso that when X is N, D and the X-D bond are absent;

E is independently H, -alkyl or substituted –alkyl, or D and E can independently be joined together via a $-(CH_2)_p$ - bridge;

Q is independently H, -alkyl or substituted –alkyl, or D, X, Q and the carbon to which Q is attached can jointly form a 3 to 7-membered ring;

g, j, k, m and n can be the same or different and are independently selected;

g is 0 to 3 and when g is 0, the carbons to which $(CH_2)_g$ is shown connected are no more linked;

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j and k are independently 0 to 3 such that the sum of j and k is 0, 1, 2 or 3; m and n are independently 0 to 3 such that the sum of m and n is 1, 2,3, 4 or

p is 1 to 3;

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 R^1 is 1 to 5 substituents which can be the same or different, each R^1 being independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, haloalkyl, -alkyl, substituted –alkyl, -cycloalkyl, CN, alkoxy, cycloalkoxy, alkylthio, cycloalkylthio, -NR 5 R 6 , -NO $_2$, -CONR 5 R 6 , -NR 5 COR 6 , -NR 5 CONR 5 R 6 where the two R 5 moieties can be the same or different, -NR 6 C(O)OR 7 , -C(O)OR 6 , -SOR 7 , -SO $_2$ R 7 , -SO $_2$ NR 5 R 6 , aryl and heteroaryl;

 R^2 is 1 to 6 substituents which can be the same or different, each R^2 being independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, -alkyl, substituted -alkyl, alkoxy, and hydroxy, with the proviso that when X is N and R^2 is hydroxy or alkoxy, R^2 is not directly attached to a carbon adjacent to X;

R³ is independently hydrogen, -alkyl or substituted -alkyl;

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 R^4 is 1 to 6 substituents which can be the same or different, each R^4 being independently selected from hydrogen, -alkyl, substituted –alkyl, alkoxy, and hydroxy, with the proviso that when Z is NR^8 and R^4 is hydroxy or alkoxy, R^4 is not directly attached to a carbon adjacent to the NR^8 ;

R⁵ and R⁶ are independently hydrogen, -alkyl, substituted -alkyl or -cycloalkyl; R⁷ is independently –alkyl, substituted -alkyl or -cycloalkyl;

R⁸ is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, -alkyl, substituted –alkyl, -cycloalkyl, -alkylcycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, -SO₂R¹⁰, -SO₂NR⁵R¹¹, -C(O)R¹¹, -C(O)NR⁵R¹¹ and -C(O)OR¹⁰;

R⁹ is independently hydrogen, -alkyl, substituted –alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, -NR⁵R¹¹, aryl, or heteroaryl; or R³ and R⁹ can be joined together and with the carbon to which they are attached form a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring having 3 to 7 ring atoms;

R¹⁰ is -alkyl, substituted –alkyl, -cycloalkyl, -alkylcycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl; and

R¹¹ is independently hydrogen, -alkyl, substituted –alkyl, -cycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl.

2. The compound of claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, wherein

R¹ is 1 to 5 substituents which can be the same or different, each R¹ being independently selected from the group consisting of Cl, Br, I or F;

5 X is N:

D is absent and the X-D bond is absent;

E is H;

g is 0;

j is 1;

10 k is 1;

m is 2;

n is 2;

R² is H;

R³ is methyl;

15 R^4 is H;

and

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Z is NR⁸, where R⁸ is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, -alkyl, substituted –alkyl, -cycloalkyl, -alkylcycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, -SO₂R¹⁰, -SO₂NR⁵R¹¹, -C(O)R¹¹, -C(O)NR⁵R¹¹ and -C(O)OR¹⁰.

3. A compound represented by the structural formula

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, wherein R⁸ is defined in the following table:

R ⁸	
-COCH₃	

-COCH₂CH₃
-co-<<
-COCH(CH ₃) ₂
-CO(CH ₂) ₂ CH ₃
-COOC(CH ₃) ₃
-SO ₂ CH ₃
SO ₂ CH ₂ CH ₃
_SO ₂
-SO ₂ CH(CH ₃) ₂
-SO ₂ (CH ₂) ₂ CH ₃
-SO₂Ph

4. A compound of claim 1 selected from the group consisting of

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate of said compound.

5. A compound of claim 1 selected from the group consisting of

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate of said compound.

6. A compound represented by the structural formula

$$R_1$$
 R_2
 R_3
 R_3
 R_4
 R_8

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, wherein

 R^1 is 1 to 5 substituents which can be the same or different, each R^1 being independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, haloalkyl, -alkyl, substituted –alkyl, -cycloalkyl, CN, alkoxy, cycloalkoxy, alkylthio, cycloalkylthio, -NR 5 R 6 , -NO $_2$, -CONR 5 R 6 , -NR 5 COR 6 , -NR 5 CONR 5 R 6 where the two R 5 moieties can be the same or different, -NR 6 C(O)OR 7 , -C(O)OR 6 , -SOR 7 , -SO $_2$ R 7 , -SO $_2$ NR 5 R 6 , aryl and heteroaryl;

R³ is independently hydrogen or –alkyl;

and

 R^8 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, -alkyl, substituted –alkyl, -cycloalkyl, -alkylcycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, -SO₂R¹⁰, -SO₂NR⁵R¹¹, -C(O)R¹¹, -C(O)NR⁵R¹¹ and -C(O)OR¹⁰.

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7. A compound of claim 6 selected from the group consisting of

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or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate of said compound.

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8. A compound represented by the structural formula

$$R_1$$
 R^3 R^8

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate there of, wherein

 R^1 is 1 to 5 substituents which can be the same or different, each R^1 being independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, haloalkyl, -alkyl, substituted –alkyl, -cycloalkyl, CN, alkoxy, cycloalkoxy, alkylthio, cycloalkylthio, -NR 5 R 6 , -NO $_2$, -CONR 5 R 6 , -NR 5 COR 6 , -NR 5 CONR 5 R 6 where the two R 5 moieties can be the same or different, -NR 6 C(O)OR 7 , -C(O)OR 6 , -SOR 7 , -SO $_2$ R 7 , -SO $_2$ NR 5 R 6 , aryl and heteroaryl;

R³ is independently hydrogen or –alkyl;

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 R^8 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, -alkyl, substituted –alkyl, -cycloalkyl, -alkylcycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, -SO₂R¹⁰, -SO₂NR⁵R¹¹, -C(O)R¹¹, -C(O)NR⁵R¹¹ and -C(O)OR¹⁰.

- 15 9. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
 - 10. A method of treating a metabolic disorder, eating disorder or diabetes comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of claim 1 to a mammal in need of such treatment.
 - 11. A pharmaceutical composition, which comprises an effective amount of a compound as, defined in claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier thereof.
- 25 12. A method of treating metabolic or eating disorders comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound.
 - 13. The method of claim 10 wherein said metabolic disorder is obesity.

- 14. The method of claim 10 wherein said eating disorder is hyperphagia.
- 15. A method of treating disorders associated with obesity comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound.
- 16. The method of claim 15 wherein said disorders associated with obesity are Type II Diabetes, insulin resistance, hyperlipidemia and hypertension.
- 17. A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a therapeutically effective10 amount of a composition comprising:

a first compound, said first compound being a compound of claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound;

a second compound, said second compound being an anti-obesity and/or anorectic agent such as a β_3 agonist, a thryomimetic agent, an anorectic agent or an NPY antagonist; and

a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier thereof.

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18. A method of treating a metabolic or eating disorder which comprises administering to a mammal in need of such treatment

an amount of a first compound, said first compound being a compound of claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound;

a second compound, said second compound being an antiobesity and/or anorectic agent such as a β_3 agonist, a thryomimetic agent, an anorectic agent or an NPY antagonist;

wherein the amounts of the first and second compounds result in a therapeutic effect.

- 19. A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising:
- a first compound, said first compound being a compound of claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound;

a second compound, said second compound being an aldose reductase inhibitor, a glycogen phosphorylase inhibitor, a sorbitol dehydrogenase inhibitor, a protein tyrosine phosphatase 1B inhibitor, a dipeptidyl protease inhibitor, insulin (including orally bioavailable insulin preparations), an insulin mimetic, metformin, acarbose, a PPAR-gamma ligand such as troglitazone, rosaglitazone, pioglitazone, or GW-1929, a sulfonylurea, glipazide, glyburide, or chlorpropamide; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefor.

- 20. A pharmaceutical composition made by combining the compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefor.
- 10 21. A process for making a pharmaceutical composition comprising combining a compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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